Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00403 271015Z ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02

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R 270830Z MAR 78 FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6121 INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0403

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, TECH, OTRA, SA

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO MIDDLE EAST BY ASST. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION DAVEN PORT AND SPECIAL SSISTANT BROWN

REF: STATE 075650

- 1. CONSULATE HAS INFORMED ARAMCO OF UPCOMING VISIT OF ASST. SECRETARY DAVENPORT, AND ARAMCO IS PREPARED TO BRIEF HIM ON ARAMCO'S ACTIVITIES AND TO PROVIDE HIM WITH FLY-OVER OF OIL FACILITIES.
- 2. ALTHOUGH EXACT DATE HAS NOT BEEN SET, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT DAVENPORT'S VISIT MAY COINCIDE WITH ARAMCO BOARD MEETING WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE HELD IN SAUDI ARABIA. IF BOARD MEETING HELD ON OR ABOUT APIRL 13 AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, ARAMCO TOP OFFICIALS (KELBERER, POWERS AND GOERNER) WOULD NOT BE AVAIALBLE FOR BRIEFINGS.
- 3. CONSULATE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THURSDAY (APRIL 13) AND FRIDAY CONSITUTE WEEKEND IN SAUDI ARABIA AND ARAMCO OFFICES ARE CLOSED. ALTHOUGH ARAMCO HAS BEEN EXTREMELY ACCOMMODATING DURING PAST FEW MONTHS FOR REQUESTS BY CONSULATE TO BRIEF OFFICIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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VISITORS ON WEEKENDS, WE ARE USING UP OUR STORE OF GOOD WILL WITH ARAMCO BY CONTINUALLY REQUESTING SUCH WEEKEND BRIEFINGS. COULD THE DAVENPORT VISIT SCHEDULE BE SHIFTED A DAY OR TWO TO AVOID THE SAUDI WEEKEND?

4. ARAMCO OFFICIALS WOULD APPRECIATE SOMEWHAT MORE PRECISE INDICATION THAN REFTEL PROVIDES OF SUBJECT

MATTER DAVENPORT AND BROWN WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN THE BRIEFING. THEY SUGGEST THAT A MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH VICE PRESIDENT JAMES KNIGHT, TELEPHONE (202) 347-8043, BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE USEFUL AS A PRELIMINARY BRIEFING AND A MEANS OF FOCUSING ARAMCO'S DHAHRAN BRIEFING ON AREAS OF GREATEST INTEREST TO THE DAVENPORT PARTY. BUSHNELL

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